

Minutes

Those present:

Stephen Badcock (*Chairman*), Fr. John (*Parish Priest*) Doug Birchall (*Minutes Secretary*), David Richardson, Jenny Birchall, Elizabeth Utting, Alan and Barbara Lamberton, Angela Ashby.

1. The meeting began at 7:30pm. Stephen began by saying that this was an extraordinary meeting, called in response to some matters which needed to be discussed as a matter of priority. The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting was waived, as they were not available, and they were not really pertinent to matters being considered today. There were two main topics which required discussion today, namely (1) a progress review of our Parish Stewardship Campaign, and (2) our response to the Diocesan Synodal Pathway programme.

3. Our Parish Stewardship campaign; a progress report.

Finances

Alan and David reported that the amount given to the Parish as weekly collections via individual standing orders had now exceeded £13,800, and was approaching £26,000. This was greatly to our advantage, since we knew fairly accurately what income we would be receiving, and could budget accordingly. Stephen commented that this was a good communal effort by the parish, which was pleasing. A more accurate picture would emerge at a later stage, when calculations had resolved the discrepancy between the calendar and financial years.

Volunteers

Alan reported that the number of people responding to this initiative had increased, and the results are being collated. Fr John, Stephen and himself were drawing up lists of people to contact if people wished to come forward s volunteers in various roles. It was decided that names and contact addresses of the group leaders could be published within the Parish, but telephone numbers and e-mail addresses should not be on public display.

Stephen asked if anyone had any suggestions as to how we might have done anything differently, or made any improvements to the stewardship campaign. There were no further suggestions. David commented that, in some respects, we had not acted precisely in accordance with suggestions from the Diocese; he had heard that, in parishes where the guidance had been closely adhered to, this had not always met with full approval from the parishioners. Fr John responded that, personally, he was pleased with the overall results we had achieved, and Stephen agreed that our results were positive overall.

4. Diocesan Synodal Pathway

Stephen said that the Diocesan Synodal Pathway was an initiative originating with the Holy Father in Rome; it is his wish that all Catholics should embrace it. The procedure was fully outlined in the report on Bishop Alan's homily in the current edition of the Diocesan newspaper (a copy is available on the diocesan website). Essentially, individual parishioners are asked to consider how the Church works in their own parishes, and there are ten questions which cover the areas on which we are asked to focus. Both individual parishioners, families and groups are invited to respond online to the questionnaire. Further details will be forthcoming from the Bishop in due course.

Stephen also drew the meeting's attention to a printout which he had obtained from the Diocesan website, giving guidance on how to complete the questionnaire. To access this, click on the link www.rcdea.org.uk

5. Any other business

Fr John advised that the date for the Churches Together Unity Service had been set for Sunday 23rd January 2022.

6. Next meeting

This was agreed as Tuesday 1st March, at 2:30pm. It was felt that a meeting in the afternoon might yield a better attendance during winter, when many people can be reluctant to come out when the evenings are dark.

Doug Birchall

Minutes Secretary

1 February 2022